

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

RSR-01 /095 W

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1601

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0523

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EAGR, GR

SUBJECT: WEEKEND PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

REF: A) THESSALONIKI 515 B) THESSALONIKI 519

1. ALL WEEKEND PAPERS REPORT PLANS OF PRESIDENT PAPADOPOULOS TO DELIVER TRADITIONAL TWO SPEECHES SEPT 1 AT OPENING OF THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FAIR. PRESIDENT WILL SPEAK FIRST AT LARGE PUBLIC CEREMONY AT PALAIS DE SPORT FOLLOWED BY "POLITICAL ADDRESS" AT PRIVATE DINNER IN MACEDONIA PALACE HOTEL. SPECULATING ON CONTENTS OF SPEECHES, CONSERVATIVE "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" OF AUGUST 26 REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT WILL "REFER TO PRESENT POLITICAL REALITY AND REDEFINE HIS POSITIONS". PAPER ALSO NOTES THAT THIS PRESIDENT'S FIRST TRIP OUTSIDE ATHENS SINCE INAUGURATION AND COMMENTS THAT HIS "STOCKS VERY HIGH IN STOCK MARKET OF PEOPLE". COMMENT: USUAL INTENSE SPECULATION ON CONTENTS OF SPEECHES HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT OVERSHADOWED THIS YEAR BY RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

2. AUGUST 25 PRESS ANNOUNCES DECISION BY ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN ATHENS TO RAISE SUGAR BEET PRICE TO DR. 790 PER TON FOR BEETS OF SIXTEEN PER CENT SUGAR CONTENT. REPORT ALSO NOTES THAT, FOLLOWING THIS RAISE, GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE

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TO SUBSIDIZE SUGAR PRODUCTION "FROM STATE BUDGET"

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN CURRENT PRICES. NOTE: WHILE FARMERS HERE HAD EARLIER DEMANDED DR 800 PER TON, INCREASE SHOULD AT LEAST TEMPORARILY ALLEVIATE SUGAR BEET SHORTAGES AT PLATY AND LARISSA REFINERIES (REF A).

3. ALL PAPERS CONTINUE COVERAGE OF RUMORED PLANS FOR CABINET HEADED BY SPYROS MARKEZINIS (REF B). "VORRAS" OF AUGUST 26 SPECULATES THAT CABINET COULD BE FORMED "WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS" BUT IN ANY CASE NO LATER THAN FIRST WEEK IN OCTOBER. REPORT ALSO NOTES THAT SOME MILITARY MEMBERS OF CABINET ARE ALREADY RELOCATING FAMILIES AWAY FROM ATHENS. WHILE ARTICLES ARE STILL ATTRIBUTED TO INFORMED SOURCES, ALL PAPERS HERE APPARENTLY NOW REGARD MARKEZINIS' CABINET AS FORGONE CONCLUSION.
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